

City of West Des Moines

Public Service Department

The Parks Division within the WDM Public Services Department provides services related to the land and facilities that make up the West Des Moines park system. The Horticulture staff is within the Parks Division and performs grounds maintenance, and all horticultural related activities in the Valley Junction business district. Numerous other horticulture responsibilities exist in parks, at City facilities, and at Jordan Cemetery.

Staff

Horticulturalist, Dee Ann Fredericks, works under the limited direction of the Urban Forestry Supervisor. She enthusiastically coordinates the duties of several seasonal staff from early spring to late in the fall.



Horticulture

Dee Ann has overseen many enhancements to Valley Junction since 1999; the addition of 47 permanent flower planters and 5 pots in the Valley Junction area along with a rooftop and rain garden. Establishing and maintaining all vegetation including the 4 pedestrian walkways and all perennial beds in Railroad Park are part of Dee Ann's responsibilities. Each winter Dee Ann spends countless hours researching the latest annual and perennial plant options and then designs the perfect arrangement for each planter. In 2017 the horticulture staff will be establishing 815 annuals in VJ's 44 galvanized planters and 1,968 annuals elsewhere in the District including the Human Services building, Legion Park, Railroad Park, Polk Co. Seniors facility, walkway beds and several pots. Over 70 plant varieties/series will be utilized this summer. Dee Ann has selected larger material in 2017 to produce her desired visual effects earlier in the season.

Long before the bitter pill of summer's end is digested Dee Ann has spent many hours planning the transformation of Valley Junction into a Winter Wonderland! The highly anticipated makeover occurs a week or so prior to Thanksgiving. Dee Ann and her staff decorate all of the District's planters with seasonal greenery and festive accessories including metal artwork from the Village Blacksmith Shop.



Presently, the City's horticulture staff maintain landscapes at 22 of the 26 parks, 13 facilities, 2 aquatic centers, Jordan Creek Cemetery, 2 trail segments and of course, the Valley Junction Historic district. **209 landscape beds and 45 non-landscape sites, totaling 129,683 square feet (just shy of 3 acres), are passionately cared for by Dee Ann and her crew.**



A passionate Master Gardener for 30 years, Dee Ann grew up in a family of farmers and gardeners. Much of her expertise has been gained through hands in the dirt experience. Dee Ann continues to search for the perfect combination of plants but knows that just when she thinks she's come up with it, there's one more remarkable creation waiting to be designed. Enjoy the fruits of Dee Ann's and her staff's labor of love this summer.



Tips for Designing Annual Planters

- Creative and dramatic mixed combinations of both foliage and flowers have regained popularity. When selecting plant materials, be sure to select plants that require similar growing conditions yet have different growth habits and bloom times. Do not overlook the importance of foliage in containers to add texture, color, fragrance and structure to your pots. Mix it up, consider combining annuals, perennials, small trees and shrubs, evergreens, vines and tropical plants. Create a combination of plants that includes **Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers**. Stand back and see if the final combination includes height, drama, fragrance (from foliage), color, texture and color echoing.



www.wdm.iowa.gov/Public_Services

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HISTORIC VALLEY JUNCTION

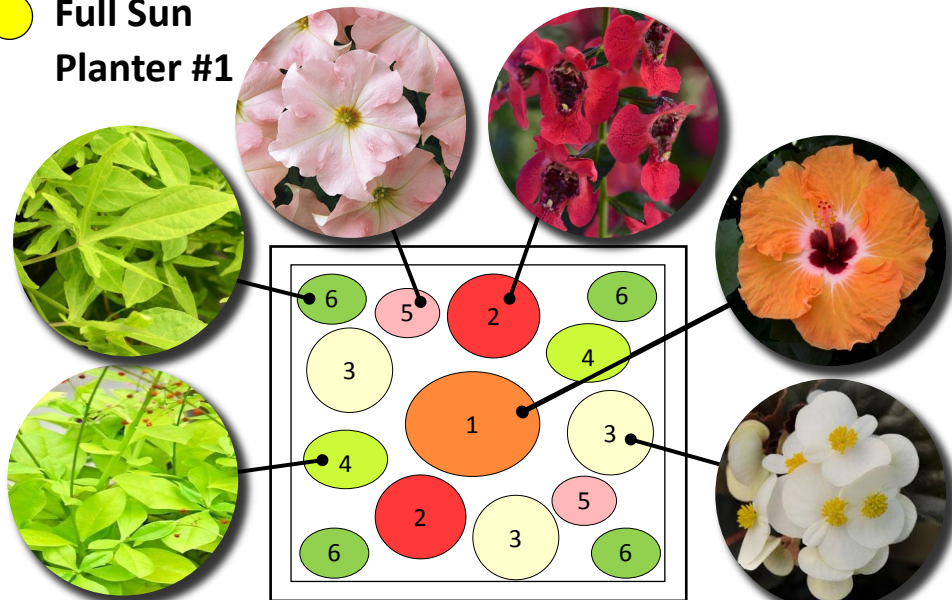
Flower Planters



What's in the Planters?

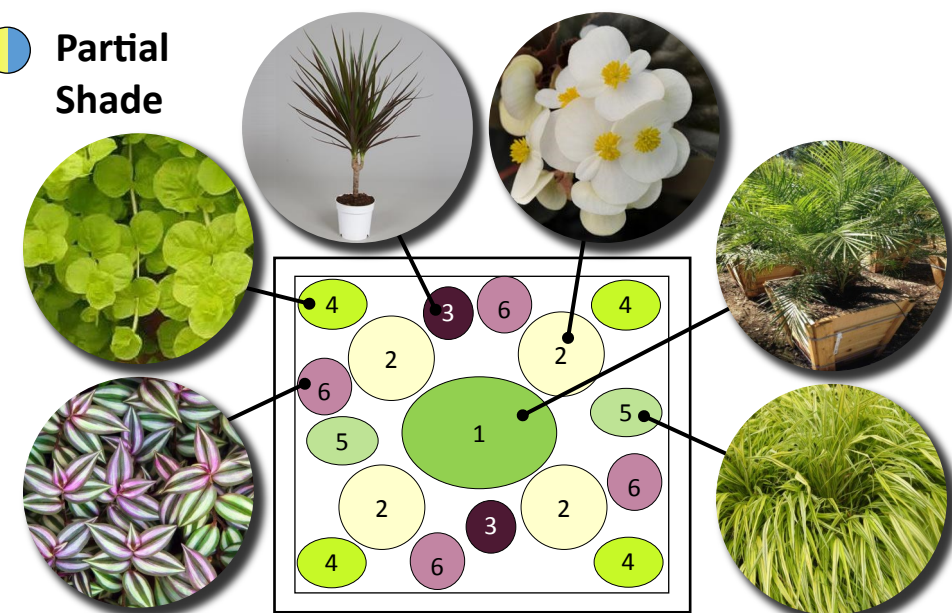
Summer 2017

Full Sun
Planter #1



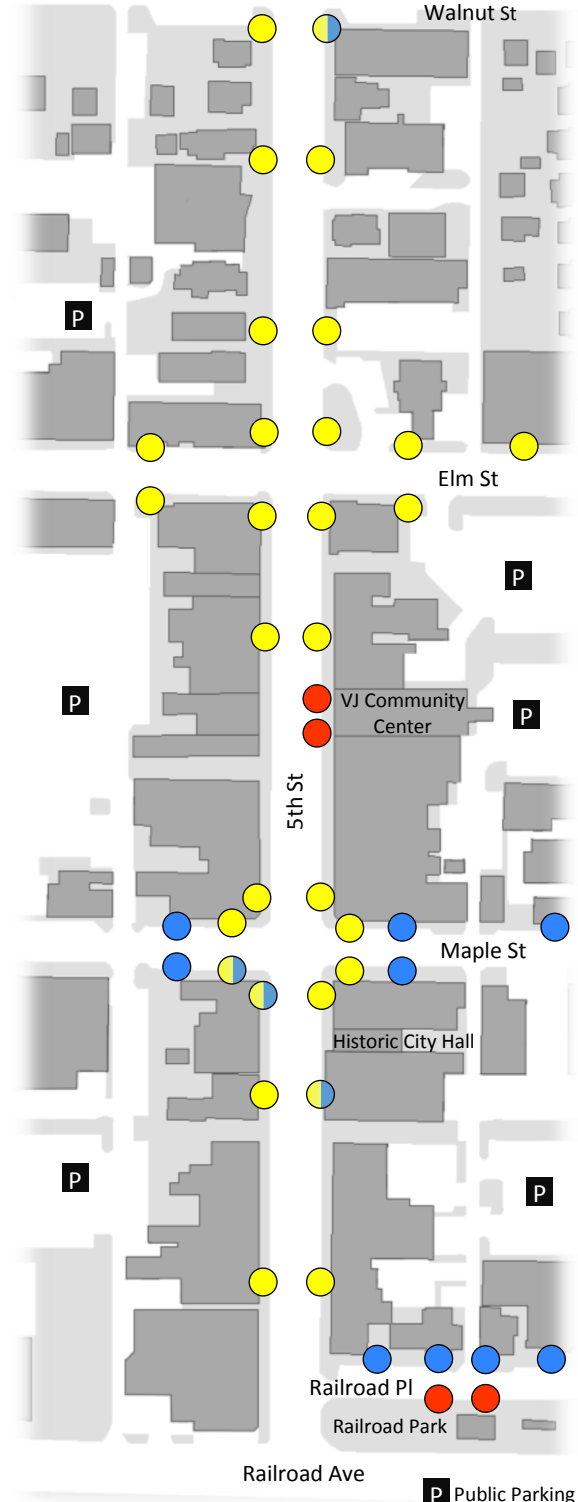
1. Hibiscus Tradeswinds Series 'Sunny' 'Mandarin' 'Tortuga' or 'Brilliant Red'
2. Angelonia Archangel Series 'Rose' 'Raspberry' or Purple'
3. Begonia BabyWing Series 'White Bronze' or Green leaf or 'Bicolor'
4. Talinum 'Limon'
5. Petunia 'Appleblossom' 'Rose' Sky Blue' or Black Magic'
6. Ipomoea SolarPower Series 'Lime'

Partial
Shade

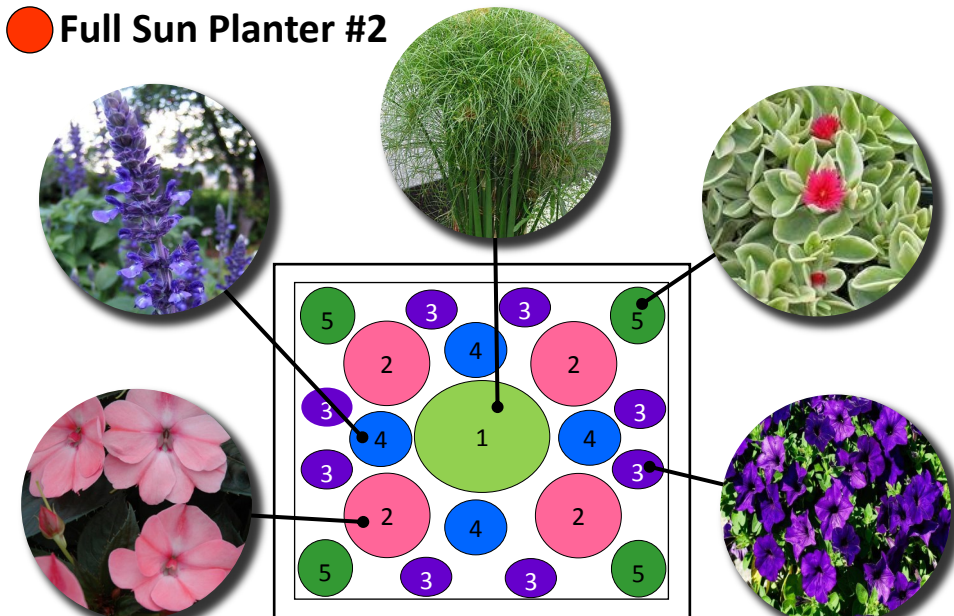


1. Robellini Palm
2. Begonia BabyWing 'White Bronze'
3. Dracaena 'Magenta'
4. Goldilocks Lysimachia
5. Hakonechloa Macra 'Aureola'
6. Wandering Jew

Valley Junction District

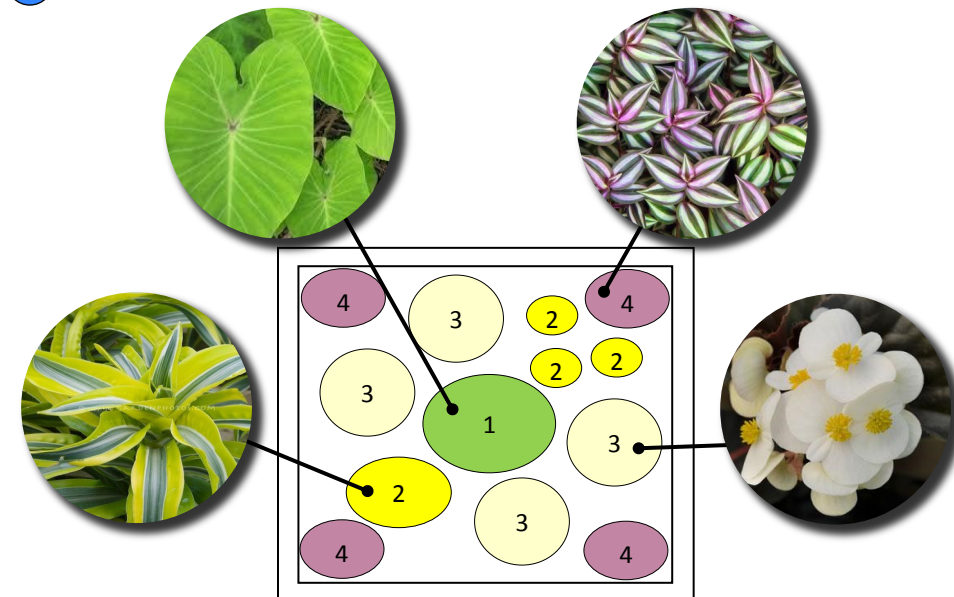


Full Sun Planter #2



1. Cyperus Egyptian Papyrus 'King Tut'
2. SunPatens Compact Series 'Blush Pink'
3. Petunia Dreams Series 'Midnight'
4. Salvia 'Mystic Spires Blue'
5. Dorotheanthus 'Mezoo'

Shade Planter



1. Colocasia Esculenta 'Elena'
2. Dracaena 'Lemon Lime'
3. Begonia BabyWing Series 'White Bronze'
4. Wandering Jew